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SUBJECT

Political Information: Brief History of the  
Russian Emigre Association From September  
1937 to January 1948

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1. In September 1937 the Japanese in North China sponsored an organization of Russian emigres called the Anti-Communist Committee. As a rule the members of this committee also belonged to the Russian Emigre Association. Because of Japanese sponsorship, the ACC continually usurped the responsibilities and functions of REA until the latter organization existed in name only. In Tientsin, E. N. Pastukhin was chosen by the Japanese to head the organization and to select other members of the committee.
2. In Tsingtao, Melenetsky became the first chairman of the Anti-Communist Committee in 1938. Early in 1947 Melenetsky became Secretary of the Russian Emigre Association. He died in Shanghai late in 1947. In 1941 Pastukhin sent as his representative to head the Tsingtao Anti-Communist Committee one Malkov who had been a member of the Anti-Communist Committee in Peiping and is reported to have been Secretary of the Tientsin branch of the Russian Fascist Party, an organization which had its head office in Harbin and which was directed by A. Rodzyevsky, who was executed in Moscow in 1946.
3. Malkov selected the following as members of the Tsingtao Anti-Communist Committee:
  - Secretary - L. P. Razevich, now a member of the Tsingtao REA
  - Treasurer - D. S. Kritsky, now a member of the Tsingtao Russian Emigre Club
  - Economic Department - N. P. Vasilovsky, now a Soviet citizen
  - Military Department - G. G. Pleshkov, now in prison (see below)
  - Director of Cooperatives - S. V. Maslov, now a member of the REA
4. In 1942 the Japanese ordered the Anti-Communist Committee to form a military unit under Pleshkov. Some 200 men were drafted and given military training. They were given uniforms of (the same type as?) the old Russian army.
5. The Japanese did not interfere with the social or cultural life of the REA or the ACC. All emigres were taxed (?by the REA, ?by the Japanese) for the support of the Russian school and hospital.
6. The Anti-Communist Committee formed under Japanese sponsorship continued to function until late in 1945 when Malkov, Pleshkov and others including E. Oganev, Editor of the Russian Emigre Newspaper Asia, were arrested and charged as

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collaborators. Malkov was sentenced to prison for five years; the other two men were imprisoned for three and one half years each. Oganesov has since been released but Malkov and Fleschkov are still in prison.

7. At the termination of the Pacific War and arrival of Chinese National Government and U.S. Army troops, the Anti-Communist Committee was liquidated. For several months the Russian Emigre Association did not function. The Chinese authorities would not permit the formation of a new REA until September 1946, when a new REA was organized with the following persons in charge:

Chairman - G. A. Koshut  
 Secretary - Malenetsky (soon replaced by T. Chetirkin)  
 Members - N. G. Balabuchin  
           N. Borisov  
           I. Markelov  
           P. P. Gubin

This new committee of the REA was handicapped from the beginning because, during the time when the emigres had been inactive, the Soviet Citizens' Association, with the permission of the Chinese authorities, had taken over all the Russian organizations formerly under the auspices of the REA. During this period there was much Soviet propaganda directed toward the emigres, many of whom applied for Soviet citizenship. By spring 1947, however, this enthusiasm had waned and from May to October 1947, 125 former emigres turned in their Soviet passports and returned to emigre status. The REA doubled its membership by adding 200 members. In spite of this, it was impossible for the REA to secure the restoration of the REA property seized by the Soviet Citizens' Club. Local authorities have not been particularly cooperative in matters concerning the Russian Emigre Club at 4 Chang Yang Wan Road.

8. In September 1947 the REA Committee, having served its allotted year, was replaced by the following:

Chairman - N. N. Merkulov  
 Secretary - T. I. Chetirkin  
 Treasurer - N. I. Efimov  
 Members - T. P. Razevich  
           V. M. Ivanov  
           I. S. Markelov  
           P. P. Gubin  
           O. Vishnevsky  
           S. P. Belov

9. Not long after this election, members of the REA appeared dissatisfied with Merkulov. They claimed he was too pro-Soviet and allowed Soviet citizens to frequent the Russian Emigre Club. According to the REA by-laws, it is possible to call a special General Assembly upon presentation of a petition signed by at least thirty members. Such a petition was prepared and an assembly called for 25 January 1948 at the Emigre Club. This meeting was attended by 73 members of the REA. Merkulov presided and immediately offered his resignation on the grounds that he was soon to leave for Shanghai. The entire Committee resigned with Merkulov and the new Committee elected that day is as follows:

Chairman - V. P. Kamkin, formerly of Tientsin where he published The North China Marine which he now publishes in Tsingtao  
 Members - V. V. Yakovlev, N. P. Ribalko, G. A. Koshut, P. P. Gubin,  
           I. S. Markelov.

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